

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 03712 152032Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 COME-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 H-01 ITC-01 /064 W

-----152034Z 082003 /65/41

O 160525Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7559

DEPT OF AGRICULTURE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 3712

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y F O R T E X T P A R A T W O

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON PALM OIL

1. GOM PRIMARY INDUSTRIES MINISTER MUSA HITAM PASSED LENGTHY (8-PAGE), RAMBLING AND TENDENTIOUS "AIDE MEMOIRE" TO AGRICULTURE SECRETARY BERGLAND EVENING JUNE 15. MEMO EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER "CONTINUING EFFORTS BY U.S. SOYBEAN AND COTTONSEED INDUSTRIES" TO CURTAIL FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF PALM OIL AND TO RESTRICT IMPORT AND CONSUMPTION OF PALM OIL IN U.S." MEMO CITES PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO TSUS TO ESTABLISH DUTY ON PALM OIL, SET STANDARDS ON GOODS INCORPORATING PALM OIL AND TWO "SENSE OF THE HOUSE" RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR IMPORT QUOTAS AND OPPOSING FURTHER IFI FUNDING OF PALM OIL DEVELOPMENT. IT ALSO TAKES ISSUE WITH USG POLICY WITHDRAWING U.S. SUPPORT FOR LOANS CONNECTED WITH PALM OIL. "IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE USG", THE MEMO CONCLUDES, "CONTINUES TO DEMONSTRATE IN SPIRIT AS WELL AS IN LETTER ITS WELL-ESTABLISHED IMAGE AS THE GREATEST PROPONENT OF FREE TRADE AND TO ABSTAIN FROM TAKING MEASURES TO CURB THE ENTRY OF PALM OIL INTO THE U.S.".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 03712 152032Z

2. DURING TRIPS TO A FELDA PALM OIL SCHEME AND A VILLAGE WHERE RISDA IS ASSISTING LOCAL RUBBER SMALLHOLDERS SECRETARY BERGLAND REPEATED TO MUSA STATEMENTS HE MADE IN WASHINGTON TWO WEEKS AGO TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DEPT OF AGRICULTURE DOES NOT REGARD PALM OIL AS A MENACING THREAT TO THE SOLVENCY OF THE U.S. SOYBEAN INDUSTRY, BUT

RATHER WE CONSIDER IT LEGITIMATE COMPETITION. MUSA TOLD SECRETARY BERGLAND HE WAS AWARE OF AGRICULTURE'S POSITION AND THAT THIS RESTATEMENT OF IT WAS REASSURING. MUSA REITERATED HIS PLEASURE OVER BERGLAND'S REMARKS DURING HIS SPEECH AT THE DINNER.

3. MUSA HITAM AND SEC BERGLAND WERE CONSTANTLY TOGETHER DURING THECJDY AND AT NO TIME WERE THE POINTS IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE RAISED BY MUSA WITH THE SECRETARY. MEMO WAS APPARENTLY LEAKED PRIOR TO ITS EMBARGO TIME AND WAS CARRIED IN REUTERS SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE IT WAS HANDED TO THE SECRETARY AT THE CLOSE OF THE BANQUET IN HIS HONOR (ABOUT 10 PM LOCAL). MUSA DEPARTED FOR THE AIRPORT AND LONDON DIRECTLY FROM THE HOTEL BEFORE THE MEMO COULD BE READ. THUS IT WILL BE AT LEAST TOMORROW BEFORE WE CAN DETERMINE THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THIS STRANGELY INAPPROPRIATE MISSIVE. BENNETT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OILS, IMPORTS, AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KUALA03712
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770229-0278, D770214-0034
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770651/aaaabskt.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5906077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2132143
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MALAYSIAN AIDE MEMOIRE ON PALM OIL
TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, MY, US, (BERGLAND, ROBERT)
To: STATE AGR
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5906077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009